Coronavirus vaccine

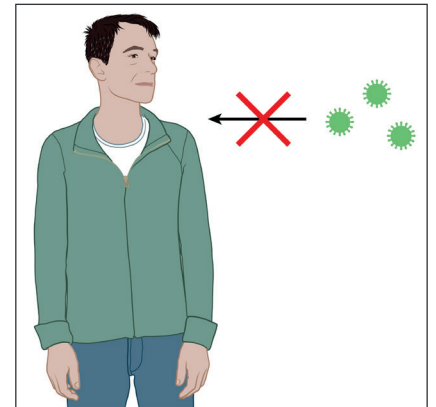**What is a coronavirus vaccine?**
A corona vaccine protects you against coronavirus.
The vaccine is injected into your upper arm.
The vaccine prevents you from getting (seriously) ill.

What happens in your body?
The vaccine causes your body to make antibodies against the virus.
If you come into contact with the virus after the vaccination, your body will recognise the virus
and know how to kill it quickly, preventing you from becoming really ill, if at all.

Is it safe?
The vaccines were made faster than usual.
That is because people all over the world worked together on a vaccine.
No steps were skipped. That is not possible, as the rules for making a vaccine are very strict.

Once the vaccines were ready, they were tested on many people.
They were then approved by the EMA and CBG.
The Pfizer / BioNTech vaccination has been successfully tested in children from the age of 12, and is now approved for this age group.

The vaccines are now being used, but safety is still being monitored.
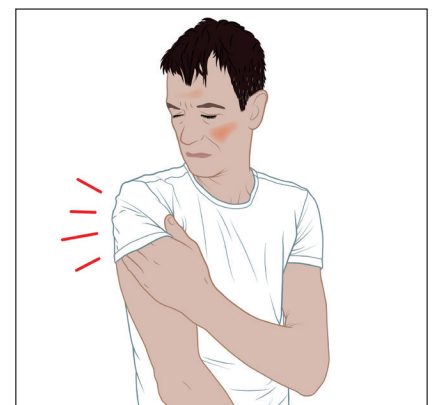

Side effects
As with other vaccines, you may develop complaints after the vaccination.
These are called side effects.
You may suffer from:

• a sore arm at the injection site;
• a headache;
• being tired;
• muscle ache;
• fever.
These are mild side effects. They are common and disappear on their own after a few days.

Serious side effects are rare. If you have serious side effects in the weeks after the vaccination, please call your GP.

Who is the vaccine meant for?

In the Netherlands, everyone from the age of 12 can make an appointment.
You can do this online or by phone.
You can make an appointment online at **www.coronavaccinatie-afspraak.nl**.
You can make an appointment by phone on 0800 7070.

There are several vaccines.
You cannot choose which one you get.
All of the vaccines used have been tested and approved.

Pregnant

Pregnant women are more likely to get very sick from coronavirus.
The advice is: get vaccinated if you are pregnant or trying to become pregnant.
This advice comes from Dutch gynaecologists, midwives and paediatricians.

Safe

Doctors and scientists studied corona vaccine safety during pregnancy.
The studies show:
* The vaccine is safe for the pregnant woman
* The vaccine is safe if you are trying to conceive
* The vaccine is safe for the baby in your womb
* The vaccine makes the chance of you becoming seriously ill from coronavirus much smaller
* The vaccine is safe if you are breast-feeding

If you are unsure about vaccination, talk to your midwife or gynaecologist about it.

When not to have the vaccine?

Call your GP if you:
* previously had an allergic reaction to a vaccination;
* had a severe allergic reaction after the first injection;

You should postpone your vaccination and make a new appointment if you:
* are very ill on the day of the vaccination
* have a fever of 38 degrees or higher
* have corona
* have common corona-related symptoms
* have had a corona test and don't have the results yet
* have been in contact with someone with corona

After the vaccination

If you get corona-related symptoms after the vaccination, have yourself tested.
After the vaccination, the chance of you infecting other people is smaller,
but it is possible.

Follow the general corona guidelines, such as washing your hands and keeping your distance, even after being vaccinated.

A booster shot

Booster shots will be given from November 2021.
The booster shot protects you for longer and decreases the chance of you getting seriously ill.

The following people will receive the booster shot first:
* People of 80 years or older
* People in a nursing home or institution
* People who work with patients

After that, people under the age of 80 will receive a booster shot.
From oldest to youngest.

For other coronavirus questions:

Call **0800-1351**

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